



Rock Mass Characterization: A Focus on Geometrical Features of Discontinuities

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Discontinuities are an intrinsic characteristic of rock masses, and they appear at every scale of a technical survey. Discontinuity geometry is mainly characterized by location, orientation, spacing, and persistence. Since discontinuities have essential effects on rock mass behavior, it is crucial to estimate their mean geometry.

The automatization of the non-contact survey of discontinuity orientation is a recurrent topic in the research community. On the other hand, spacing and persistence are still the most challenging characteristics to be determined. The natural variability of discontinuity spacing in a rock mass leads to difficulties in collecting enough data to properly describe its statistical distribution.

This Special Issue aims to collect all research developments related to non-contact survey methods devoted to rock mass characterization, with a special focus on geometrical features of discontinuities, combining multidisciplinary approaches coming from rock mechanics, geology, remote sensing, and numerical simulations, to provide a comprehensive update of the state-of-the-art findings in this field.

Guest Editors





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Understanding the Earth's origin and its bio-geological evolution, the multiple implications of the geosciences (as a coherent set of interconnected disciplines), and the sociocultural and ethical interdisciplinary approaches, will be crucial for a better understanding of Nature, and also for undertaking scientifically based political decisions.

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